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Understanding compartmentalized cAMP signaling for potential therapeutic approaches in cardiac disease

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Document Version

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Publication date:
2018

[Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Musheshe, N. (2018). *Understanding compartmentalized cAMP signaling for potential therapeutic approaches in cardiac disease: Insights into the molecular mechanisms of the cAMP-mediated regulation of the cardiac phospholemman-Na⁺/K⁺ ATPase complex*. [Thesis fully internal (DIV), University of Groningen]. University of Groningen.

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Extras

Nederlandse sammenfasseng/Dutch
Summary

Acknowledgements

Curriculum vitae

List of publications

Participations in conferences

Nederlandse sammenfasseng/Dutch summary

ALGEMENE DISCUSSIE

Beta-adrenoceptoren (β -AR) behoren tot een familie van G proteïne-gekoppelde receptoren (GPCR) aan het plasmalemma. Ligandbinding aan β -AR verhoogt de cyclische AMP (cAMP) niveaus en proteïne kinase A (PKA) activiteit, vereist voor catecholaminerge regulatie van de hartfunctie. Hormoon-geïnduceerde cAMP/PKA signaaltransductie leidt tot fosforylering van eiwitten die betrokken zijn bij excitatie-contractie koppeling (ECC), wat in sommige gevallen kan resulteren in tegengestelde effecten op $[Ca^{2+}]_i$. Het is aangetoond dat bij adrenerge stimulatie PKA-gemedieerde fosforylering van L-type Ca^{2+} kanalen (LTCC) en phospholamban (PLB) leidt tot verhoogde $[Ca^{2+}]_i$ en positieve inotropie, terwijl PKA-gemedieerde fosforylering van troponine I (TPNI) de affiniteit van het myofilament voor Ca^{2+} juist vermindert waardoor mogelijk het effect van de verhoogde $[Ca^{2+}]_i$ teniet wordt gedaan. Een vergelijkbaar effect op $[Ca^{2+}]_i$ wordt bereikt via PKA-gemedieerde fosforylering van phospholemmaan (PLM) aan Ser68, wat resulteert in verhoogde Na^+/K^+ ATPase (NKA) activiteit. Gefosforyleerd PLM verliest zijn inhibitie van de NKA pomp, resulterend in een verhoogde affiniteit van de pomp voor Na^+ (Silvermana, B.Z et al., 2005). De gestimuleerde NKA pompt Na^+ de cel uit, wat daarna de afgifte van Ca^{2+} via de Na^+/Ca^{2+} exchanger (NCX) verhoogt en daardoor de $[Ca^{2+}]_i$ en inotropie verlaagt. Hoe stimulatie van de β -AR deze schijnbare tegengestelde effecten coördineert is onduidelijk. In mijn proefschrift bestudeerden we moleculen en signaalwegen die mogelijk dit raadsel kunnen verklaren.

Signaaltransductie door cAMP/PKA in afzonderlijke compartimenten maakt selectieve activatie van afzonderlijke PKA “subsets”, en daardoor verschillende hormoon-specifieke responsen, binnen dezelfde cel mogelijk. cAMP en zijn effectoren/regulatoren zijn georganiseerd in separate subcellulaire domeinen, en slechts een fractie van alle domeinen wordt geactiveerd in reactie op een bepaald hormoon. Dysfunctie in een dergelijke ruimtelijke organisatie is geassocieerd met verscheidene hartziekten zoals hartfalen en aritmie (MacLenna, D.H and Kranias, E.G., 2003; Venetucci, L.A et al., 2008). Een onderzoek door Surdo N.C et al., 2017 liet recent zien dat zelfs een enkele hormoonreceptor meerdere cAMP pools kan genereren, die elk een verschillende amplitude en kinetiek vertonen. De studie toonde aan dat na β -AR stimulatie afzonderlijke cAMP signalen worden gegenereerd op het LTCC/A Kinase Anchoring Protein 79 (AKAP79) complex aan het plasmalemma en op de myofilamenten, en dat een dergelijke heterogeniteit nodig is voor optimale regulatie van inotropie. De hypothese van de huidige studie was dat een vergelijkbare afzonderlijke reactie van cAMP en PKA kan optreden op het PLM-NKA complex en het LTCC/AKAP79 complex om de geobserveerde tegengestelde effecten op $[Ca^{2+}]_i$ te coördineren.

Met FRET sensoren voor cAMP en PKA activiteit kunnen gecompartmentaliseerde cAMP-PKA signaaltransductieroutes worden gedemonstreerd. In **hoofdstuk 2** beschrijven wij de ontwikkeling van nieuwe FRET sensoren om cAMP en PKA activiteit in real time te bestuderen met hoge spatiële en temporele resolutie. Hiermee tonen wij het bestaan van cAMP nanodomeinen aan. Met FRET is aangetoond dat cAMP verhoging niet homogeen verdeeld is over de intacte cel, wat afzonderlijke responsen downstream van hormonale stimulatie mogelijk maakt (Zaccolo M and Pozzan T., 2002, Surdo N.C et al., 2017, Musheshe N et al., 2018). De strakke spatiële regulatie wordt deels bereikt door PDE's, die cAMP degraderen en de diffusie

ervan tussen compartimenten voorkomen en daardoor onnodige PKA activatie remmen (Di Benedetto G et al., 2008; Mika D et al., 2012), en door PKA-bindende AKAP's die signaalsomes gericht aansturen op specifieke cellulaire locaties. Fosfatasen spelen ook een rol bij compartimentalisatie door PKA targets te defosforyleren en daarmee het signaal te beëindigen. cAMP-nanodomeinen worden dus gedefinieerd door unieke cAMP-pools, PDE's, PKA en zijn regulatoren, AKAP's en fosfatasen. Nieuwe op FRET gebaseerde sensoren maken het mogelijk dat cAMP-PKA signalen in verschillende cAMP nanodomeinen in een intacte cel kunnen worden vergeleken. In de huidige proefschrift worden juist deze nieuwe FRET sensoren gebruikt om cardiale nanodomeinen van cAMP aan te tonen.

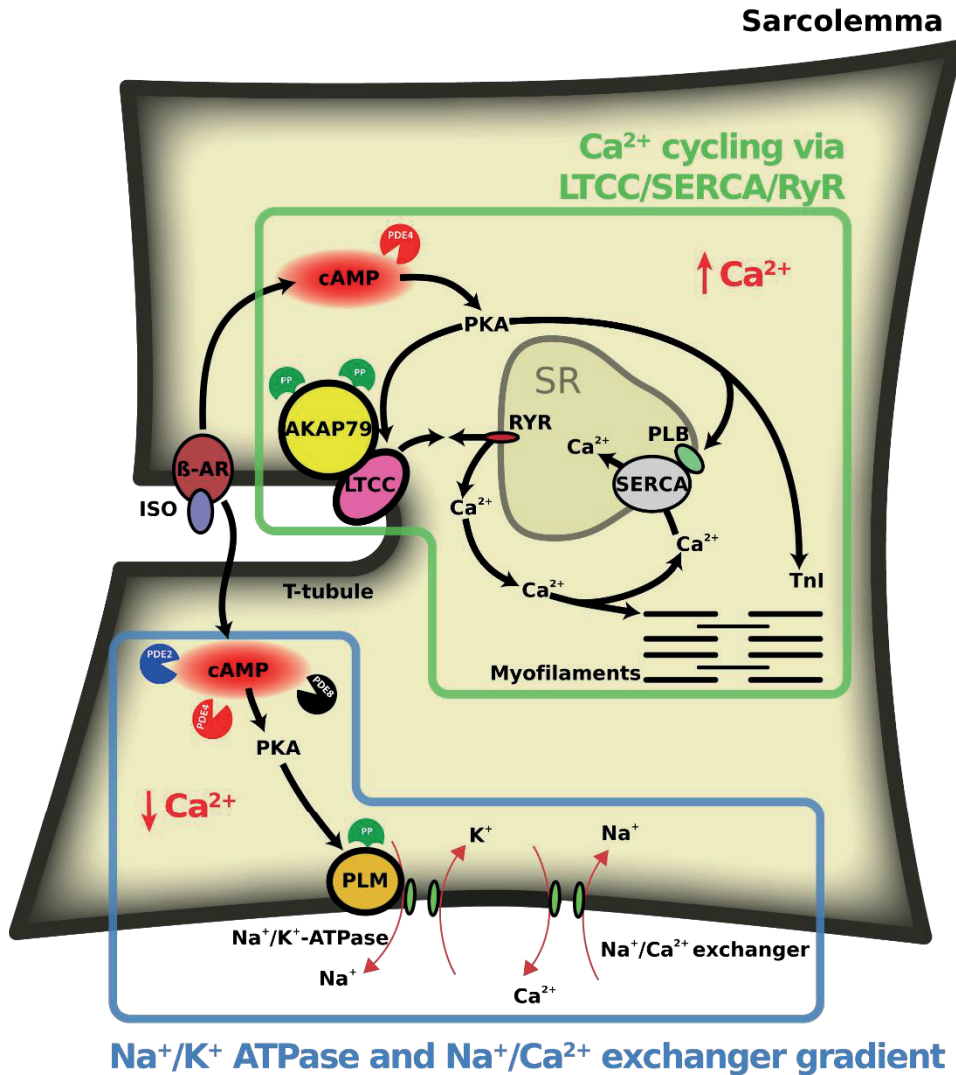
In **hoofdstuk 3** onderzochten we of PLM-NKA en LTCC/AKAP79 gereguleerd worden door afzonderlijke cAMP- en PKA-signalen, die kunnen bijdragen aan de tegengestelde effecten op $[Ca^{2+}]_i$ die - blijkbaar tegelijkertijd - de cardiale inotropie verhogen en verlagen. Met FRET sensoren voor cAMP lieten we zien dat in ventriculaire cardiomyocyten van oude ratten (ARVM's) en jonge ratten (NRVM's) er heterogeniteit is in de respons van cAMP na β -AR stimulatie, waarbij de respons op PLM-NKA significant lager is dan dat op LTCC/AKAP79. We hebben vastgesteld dat de differentiële toename van cAMP op PLM β -AR specifiek was, aangezien globale stimulatie van AC's resulteerde in een aanzienlijke toename van cAMP op PLM als ook op AKAP79. De heterogeniteit in cAMP-amplituden bleek te kunnen worden toegeschreven aan PDE's, waarbij PDE2 en 8 verantwoordelijk zijn voor de verlaging op PLM-NKA, maar niet op LTCC/AKAP79. Ondanks de heterogene verhoging van cAMP op PLM-NKA en LTCC/AKAP79 na β -AR stimulatie, zien we echter dat PKA-afhankelijke fosforylering op de twee locaties vergelijkbaar is. Wij laten ook een hogere fosfatase activiteit zien bij AKAP79 dan bij PLM. Inderdaad, had eerder

onderzoek suggereert dat fosfatase activiteit substantieel kan verschillen in verschillende subcellulaire microdomeinen van cardiale myocyten (Marx S.O et al., 2000, Yano M et al., 2005). Welke delen van het puzzel zijn nog bekend? Reeds is vastgesteld dat proteïne fosfatase 1 (PP1) PLM op het PKA-afhankelijke serine 68 defosforyleert (El-Armouche et al., 2011), en dat AKAP79 samenwerkt met proteïne fosfatase 2B (PP2B) en PP1 (Le A.V et al., 2011). Daarom concluderen wij dat het waarschijnlijk is dat deze fosfatasen betrokken zijn bij de differentiële lokale regulatie van PKA-afhankelijke fosforylering. Verder onderzoek zal echter nodig zijn om het type fosfatase dat betrokken is bij de AKAP79/LTCC en PLM/NKA complexen en de relatieve bijdrage daar aan te definiëren. Aanvullend onderzoek zal ook nodig zijn om het mechanisme te ontrafelen dat betrokken is bij de bifasische defosforylering die we hebben waargenomen bij PLM-NKA en LTCC/AKAP79-complexen en de functionele relevantie ervan op de respectievelijke locaties. Over het algemeen ondersteunt de bevinding gepresenteerd in **hoofdstuk 3** een model (Figuur 1) waarbij cAMP/PKA-signalering op unieke wijze wordt gereguleerd op AKAP79/LTCC en PLM/NKA door PDE's en fosfatasen om te zorgen voor gecompartmentaliseerde signalering op de twee locaties. Die mechanismen moeten coördinatie mogelijk maken van ionenflux (Ca^{2+} en Na^{+}) over het plasmalemma, dat essentieel is voor optimale regulatie van contractie en relaxatie van het hart.

Het is cruciaal dat gerichte FRET sensoren “echt lokale” signalen rapporteren zoals ze voorkomen in wildtype cellen. Eerdere studies hebben aangetoond dat fusie van targeting-domeinen met FRET sensoren zoals Epac-camps 1, FRET beïnvloedt vanwege sterische hindering (Surdo NC et al., 2017), maar er zijn geen onderzoeken tot dusver om te bepalen of targeting-domeinen cAMP- en PKA-activiteitsuitelingen ook beïnvloed worden. In **hoofdstuk 4** hebben we daarom

AKAP79-gerichte sensoren voor cAMP- en PKA-activiteit studies gevalideerd. Onze studies hebben laten zien dat het vermogen van op AKAP79 gerichte sensoren om PKA te rekruteren voor AKAP79-specifieke nanodomeinen geen invloed heeft op lokale cAMP- en PKA-activiteitsuitlezingen. Deze resultaten bevestigen dat onze bevindingen met deze doelgerichte reporters met AKAP79 als targeting-domein accuraat zijn en geen artefacten bevatten.

Door het gebruik van FRET technieken laten we hier een nieuw facet van de complexe regulatie van lokale cAMP-signalering in cardiale myocyten zien, die een strakke coördinatie van PKA-activiteit op het plasmalemma ter modulatie van een optimale ionenflux mogelijk maakt (Figuur 1).



Figuur 1: Schematische weergave van PKA-gemedieerde fosforylering van LTCC/AKAP79 en PLM/NKA resulterend in tegengestelde effecten op Ca²⁺. PDE is fosfodiësterase. PP is eiwitfosfatase en PKA is eiwitkinase A.

TOEKOMSTIGE PERSPECTIEVEN:

Mijn proefschrift beschrijft dat FRET sensoren van cruciaal belang zijn voor het ontrafelen van cAMP-nanodomeinen en hun unieke signaleringseigenschappen. Hoe nu verder? Verdere aanpassing van de sensitiviteit van de sensoren en verbetering van hun dynamisch bereik is nodig om onze kennis over cAMP-gereguleerde cardiomyocyt-compartimenten te verfijnen en verdere informatie te verschaffen over componenten die een belangrijke rol spelen in de normale fysiologie en ontwikkeling van hartziekten. De ontdekking van remmers is een essentieel onderdeel van het ontwikkelen van nieuwe geneesmiddelen (Maurice D.H et al., 2014). Niet alleen kunnen remmers worden ontwikkeld tot therapeutische middelen of diagnostica, ze kunnen ook worden gebruikt als hulpmiddelen voor het bestuderen van biologische of pathologische processen. PDE-remmers zijn echter chemische verbindingen, waardoor het zeer waarschijnlijk moeilijk is ze te fuseren met FRET-sensoren die op eiwitten zijn gebaseerd. Bovendien kan hun toepassing bij patiënten inkapseling vereisen, bijvoorbeeld bij het gebruik van inhalatoren (Lim G.B., 2018) om de afgifte in het lichaam te bevorderen, en er zijn ook verdere onderzoeken nodig om de membraanpermeabiliteit te beoordelen.

Zowel van PDE2 (Hua R et al., 2012; Aye T.T., 2012) als van PP1 (Neumann et al., 1997) is aangetoond dat ze verhoogd tot expressie komen in zowel humaan als experimenteel hartfalen. De data die we presenteren suggereren dat bij hartfalen een verdere afname van de cAMP-respons op PLM/NKA door verhoogde PDE2-activiteit en PLM-defosforylering door PP1 kan samenvallen om de adrenerge regulatie van NKA te verlagen, mogelijk hierdoor de verhoogde $[Na^+]_i$ en de negatieve effecten op hartmetabolisme en oxidatieve stress die associëren met verslechterend hartfalen. PDE2-inhibitie zou daarom de

hartfunctie positief kunnen beïnvloeden. De exclusieve toename van cAMP-niveaus op PLM/NKA, maar niet op AKAP79/LTCC, door inhibitie van PDE2 en PDE8, opent de mogelijkheid om deze enzymen te targeten door de respectievelijk nieuwe chemische remmers te ontwerpen om selectieve manipulatie van NKA-activiteit te bereiken voor therapeutische doeleinden.

Verschillende studies wijzen op de relevantie van PDE2 en de targeting ervan bij hartziekten (Vettel C et al., 2017; Zoccarato A et al., 2015) en recentelijk heeft een onderzoek door Monterisi S et al., 2017 ook laten zien dat inhibitie van PDE2A2 resulteert in langwerpige mitochondria en protectie tegen mitochondriale afhankelijke celdood in cardiale myocyten. Ondanks een grote interesse van farmaceutische bedrijven in het ontwikkelen van nieuwe PDE2-remmers naast die al beschikbaar zijn voor farmacologisch gebruik, zijn er tot nu toe geen PDE2-remmers voor klinisch gebruik bij de behandeling van hartaandoeningen zoals hartfalen, maar een klinische trial in fase 1 is in gang gezet voor de ontwikkeling van de PDE2A-remmer voor de behandeling van schizofrenie (Takeda., 2015), die de mogelijke toepassing van PDE2-remmers voor ziekten aantoont. Aan de andere kant is er weinig bekend over de rol van PDE8 in het hart. Een onderzoek door Patrucco E et al., 2010 duidt op een rol van PDE8A in de regulatie van ECC in ventriculaire myocyten. PDE8 deficiënte myocyten hadden een hogere $[Ca^{2+}]_i$ en I_{Ca} , dan het wildtype. Onze studie is echter het eerste bewijs van een specifiek signaalosoom, d.w.z. PLM/NKA gereguleerd door PDE8 in ventriculaire myocyten.

Onze bevindingen wijzen sterk op de functionele relevantie van PDE2 en PDE8 (Figuur 1) in het hart, waardoor hun targeting belangrijke kandidaten zijn voor behandeling. Bovendien zorgt begrip van het type fosfatasen dat betrokken is bij

de regulatie van PKA op de twee plaatsen ook voor een platform voor gerichte therapieën in ziektes.

Toekomstige studies zullen het identificeren van de respectievelijke PDE2- en PDE8-isovormen vereisen om precieze therapie verder te kunnen bevorderen en nadelige bijwerkingen die zijn geobserveerd bij PDE inhibitie te voorkomen (Maurice D.H et al., 2014). Echter, zoals hier bediscussieerd is het targeten van isovormen van elke respectievelijke PDE-familie waarschijnlijk lastig te bewerkstelligen, aangezien isovormen dezelfde kenmerken op de katalytische plaats hebben. Daarom, in tegenstelling tot het inhiberen van familie-specifieke isovormen, kan het gebruik van peptiden of kleine moleculen die gericht zijn op de interactie van PDE-isovormen met het signaalosoom meer plausibel zijn, omdat dit de verplaatsing van PDE-isovormen van hun signaalosomen mogelijk zou maken.

We hopen dat ons werk deuren opent voor nieuwe ideeën voor experimentele strategieën voor het begrijpen van lokale cAMP - PKA-signalering op verscheidene nanodomeinen in het hart, inclusief maar niet beperkt tot die betrokken bij ECC.

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Acknowledgements

Some person: “what do you want to be when you grow up?”

3yr old me: “A doctor”

You see, it was supposed to be that simple. Know what you want you want to be, say it out and be it. Ok that’s too simplistic but then again, the idea in my head was not far from simplistic. My plan really was to finish kindergarten, finish primary school and high school, join a medical program at the university and just like that “be a doctor”. You will agree this is not what panned out and uhmmm no one ever asked me what doctor I was planning to be. To be fair - I didn’t know either and now – I have you all and my laptop to thank for the kind I have become.

Principle Investigators/supervisors

First and foremost, I would like to thank my supervisors Manuela Zaccolo and Martina Schmidt, for giving me the amazing opportunity to work on a collaborative project between the University of Oxford and University of Groningen, for guiding me through the research process and for encouraging me to become the best version of myself in science. A wise man once told me when I introduced myself as one of your students and he said “you are sandwiched between two of the most brilliant women in the field, it can only be good things coming out of your work”, and not that he was the first to spell it out for me but it really hit home on how lucky and blessed I have been to be mentored by you and shaped by you, both professionally and personally as a scientist.

Thank you for supporting me more than 100% as I navigated pregnancy, motherhood and my doctoral research. For reminding me to remain steadfast while basking in the joy of the most important creations I have made – my babies. Thank you for providing me with the most conducive and flexible environment

as a young mother and researcher who needed to thrive at both and therefore did not have to choose. You two are the future of feminism.

Thank you for the love, the friendship, the iron hand and feedback, for the education and most importantly for handling our global diversity as a booster for the results we have achieved successfully.

University of Oxford

I would like to extend my utmost gratitude to my dear colleagues turned friends for their input at all stages of my research. Nicoletta – thank you for providing me with the research tools i.e. sensors which form the platform of my research. Thank you for introducing me to the ins and outs of CUTie. We both know it has come in handy. Your stories are what describe you and also encourage people to relate to you. Thank you for your openness and always sticking to being true to yourself in whatever situation. Getting to know you as a mother has also been absolutely beautiful. Stefania- Thank you for being steadfast and watching everyone's back as far proper lab practices. Without you, I would not be able to find the little things in the lab and thank you for your kindness and for being our moderator. And of course, your advice on good cooking cannot be matched. Thank you for the random packages of pesto sauce and for all my crackers whenever I complained about hunger in the evenings. Andreas – the lab wizard or magician is not enough to describe you but you had a way to solve everything in the lab. Thank you for being quick to help, for brainstorming with me and for your advice in every aspect of life. We still need to agree to disagree that I know German. Marcella – where would I be without your humor and inside jokes in every humanly way possible. Thank you for being my go-to person be it for a research question or a question about my baby's toothpaste. Katharina – I know I always referred to you as a swing state and I still stand by it. But because of that status you guarded, you became closer to me than you imagined. Thank you for the research input and for encouraging me to explore my strange ideas in the lab

– they paid off. Miguel – because you take life simplistically, you always reminded me to do the same. To work efficiently but also live. Thank you for all the laughs.

To you all, I will miss the passion you have for every subject we addressed, I will miss your interest in each other's lives. The laughs at lunch, the complaints about NHS, the stories about everyone's country. But most especially, I will miss the love we put into making everyone happy on their birthdays and picking out the perfect gifts. Thank you for embracing all the mini additions (babies) we brought to the lab. You have been wonderful aunts and uncles – thank you! For the contribution you have made in making a better person both personally and professionally – I dearly thank you.

University of Groningen

I would like to thank my colleagues at the University of Groningen for their coordination and for always being supportive on site and over email. Wilfred – thank you for showing me around in the lab and tell me about the ins and outs of the facility. Haoxiao – thank you for the laughs and research discussions especially on how to cope with PhD research challenges. Anita – for being so warm and welcoming, for the advice on how to set up my RuG accounts and most importantly for encouraging me as I navigated parenthood and PhD research. You always assured me that it was so doable and of course you made it seem easy. , Amalia – for welcoming me always and having lunches with me tell me about how I could contribute to science and also succeed in it. Annet – for coordinating my PhD defense logistics Janneke – for coordinating the departmental activities and for your prompt responses to my inquiries while I was around or away from Groningen.

Also, a special thank you to Inge Krabbedam, Dr. Paschal Oude Weernink and Prof. Martina Schmidt for translating my academic summary into Dutch. Thank you so much.

Family

Husband and kids

Who would I be without you? I would love to extend my sincere gratitude to my husband- Augustin for being our backbone in every way. You inspire me every day to become better, to work better and you give me something to live for. Thank you for supporting me and my dreams. For giving your all so that we can thrive. For being my number 1 fan and always showing it. Thank you for taking care of our needs, staying up with me to complete my writing and for coming to the lab to give me company as I finished my late-night experiments. I love you so much.

My babies – Élise-Xheita and Hervé-Seema – you are my world and center. You have been amazing babies throughout the process. You helped me step into the magical moments of my life with grace and kindness. You have been my emotional support and your smiles and milestones keep me going. A special thank you for listening to me when I said that once you came into the world, you would sleep through the nights. And you have done just that to this day.

To you three – you are my inspiration, my drive and who I look forward to everyday. Thank you.

Parents and siblings and in-laws

My A-team, I do not know where to begin. We live so far apart and yet so near. I have not moved a single step, or even crossed a road without you. I do not remember a day you did not say hi or check in or ask about what I do. I cannot write this note without including whats-app calling, videos and chats. You have walked with me, laughed with me, stayed up with me, practiced with me, and

parented with me. Thank you for being my biggest cheerleaders. Mummy and daddy for always being so wise and encouraging, Tatra – for being so supportive and always listening, Nchume – for being very caring and humorous, for giving me life whenever we talked and turning every situation into a joke, Bliika – for being you and sweet and kind and always visiting and letting me give you a hard time. I am as proud of you as much as you are of me. I love you to the moon and back and back again.

Christine – Thank you for praying with me and for me and always checking in on us. The smiles that your babies give us all when we are in Uganda come in handy each time and I love you very much

Sam – you can be quiet yet so talkative and aware of my life path. I love that you are interested in my future and always remind me that I am on the right path and surely nothing can go so wrong. I appreciate the care and the positive energy you send my way. Everything that Ethan and Aaron know is because you have explained it to them. Thank you.

To the Boisleux clan (Sabine, Francois, Simon, Claire and Juliette) – thank you for cheering me on every step of the way since we met. I am grateful for your love and support, and for your kindness that has made my stay in Europe all together fun and homely. To many more years of friendship and love and parenting of our beautiful children. I love you very much. Thank you.

Friends

Family friends

Family friends turned family. I am grateful for each one of you and the love and commitment you have shown in my life over the years. I do not remember a time in my life where you were not a part of it or present or involved. You have brought me so far in everything. Encouraged me, discussed applications with me, helped

me make decisions and you have allowed me to spread my wings. You have always reminded me that life goes by so fast and you have enjoyed watching me grow into the best version of myself. Needless to say, most of who I have become is because you have been a part of the journey through and through. Thank you for loving me and introducing to those closest to you. Alida – I remember the first application we filled in for USA, repeating the long application because I had forgotten the password. Reint – I remember the questions about the future and you always telling me I have plenty of time to make up my mind so I did not have to have all the answers. Martha – I remember you falling to your knees with happy tears when I mentioned I would be joining Mount Holyoke. Thank you for the women circle. It has always given a sense of peace and focus on self which I need sometimes. Don – I remember you helping with my suitcases so that I could settle in and making sure that I could master life skills – driving was one of them. Reminding me to be thankful to the nuns and the education that had brought me thus far (we have always agreed to disagree about their ways). The Dolben and Pope family – for including me through and through and for being close in every way. I have enjoyed seeing each one of us grow and enjoy life fully. Judy – oh the stories and everything that America is. I remember you driving all the way to Mount Holyoke to bring me a water bottle. Jaap and Danielle – Groningen = you! I remember the first time in Groningen you accompanied me to move into my accommodation. The landlord was rude and you could not have it. Immediately you asked me to get into the car and move into your place. Opa and Oma – for welcoming me into your lives just like your children have. Silvana – your love is forever felt be it on phone or when we happen to meet in person. I didn't turn out to be a model in the magazines like my genes had threatened in the beginning of time but these days campaigns are very inclusive – so who knows. Bela and Ellen – you helped me find my center by teaching me the principles of meditation especially during the times I felt I had to figure everything out. To all family friends far and near. You have been the meaning of family and I have been

inspired, encouraged, shaped and challenged to inspire change I would love to see in the world. Mainly – thank you for loving me as your own and loving the extension of me even more. There is no doubt that Augustin and the children feel your love too. Thank you for being my center.

Friends: BFFs

Where do I begin? I will try to put our sisterhood in simple terms. You are the definition of rocks. Again, I cannot separate whats-app calling and videos and chats because they have brought us closer in this dynamic and long-distance relationship we find ourselves in. Thank you for holding my hand from a far. Reminding me that we can do this. That we have done it before and sure cannot fail now. You have parented with me, stayed up with me to rant about annoyances, run with me to catch buses and trains and flights to those presentations or surprises for my family. You have laughed and cried with me. You have grounded me and dreamt with me. But mainly you have advised me on many occasions, loved me and cheered me on all the way. Thank you Vicky- for being there for me in every way, being my wise counsel and confidant, hosting me on my impromptu visits and checking on me to make sure I have boarded that bus or train or plane to make it to my presentations. Adrienn – you are our Oxford person. The babies and us love having you around and you know I always use them as an excuse to see you more. Thank you for stepping in as their auntie, and for taking over whenever we need extra hands. We love you. Abena thank you for your prayers and encouragement. Hope – for being my center through and through. Becky – for reminding me that we got this and breathing with me - literally. Princess for screaming with me whatever the news and reminding me to live out my potential. Annette – for reminding me that parenting is the best decision ever, and of course walking through pregnancy with me with so much grace. Stella – for reminding that life is so beautiful and full of second chances as long as we trust the process. Lorna and Paula and Jose– for listening to me

deeply. Lynn – for being there for me on every occasion and visiting wherever. Lulu – you really could not have come at a better time in our lives. And to all friends not mentioned but definitely at heart – I am entirely grateful that I chose you and you chose me.

Thank you all – we have done it again.

Curriculum vitae

The author of this thesis was born in Mengo, Uganda, on the 7th of May 1989. Following her high school graduation with A-level exams and Standardized American Tests (SATs) in 2008, she moved to USA for her undergraduate degree in Biochemistry at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts. During her undergraduate studies, Nshunge worked as a career advisor at Mount Holyoke, volunteered with the Red Cross Children's hospital in South Africa, worked with HIV/AIDs patients at Mild May, Uganda and also taught basic science and English to young peers in New Delhi, India. The author studied abroad at the University of Copenhagen and the Danish Institute for Study Abroad, in Denmark in 2011 where she participated in the Medical Practice and Policy program. While in Denmark, the author worked with the Danish Red Cross where she supported individuals struggling with mental health and drug addiction. Upon completing her undergraduate degree in 2012, the author moved to the Netherlands to pursue her Master of Science (MSc) in Medical and Pharmaceutical Drug Innovation at the University of Groningen. While at the University of Groningen, the author worked with the Groningen Research Institute for Drug Exploration where she explored research tools to develop cancer drugs. After her MSc in 2014, the author was awarded a PhD grant to pursue her PhD in Molecular Pharmacology with a focus on cardiovascular science at the department of physiology, anatomy and genetics, University of Oxford, and at the department of molecular pharmacology at the University of Groningen in 2015. For the entirety of her educational career, the author has presented her work at international and national conferences and has received a number of prestigious awards including but not limited to Sigma Xi award for excellent research, Avril McDonald award for best master student and the Margaret Andrew Winters fellowship for internships in the sciences.

List of publications

Musheshe N., Lobo MJ., Schmidt M., Zaccolo M. Targeting FRET-based sensors for cAMP and PKA activity using AKAP5. *Submitted to Sensors, 2018.*

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Elife, 2017

Participation in conferences

2015

Musheshe N, Surdo NC, Zaccolo M

cAMP-mediated Regulation of the Cardiac Phospholemann- Na^+/K^+ ATPase Complex. *British Heart Foundation Poster Session, Oxford, UK*

2016

Musheshe N, Surdo NC, Zaccolo M

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